

REMARKS

1. In the specification

The specification is amended, as shown in the foregoing AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION, to correct minor informalities. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added, as the changes simply correct minor informalities.

Entry of the AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

2. In the claims

As shown in the foregoing AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS, the claims have been amended to more clearly point out the subject matter for which protection is sought.

Claim 5 is amended to correct minor informalities. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added, as the changes simply correct minor informalities.

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 18, 19, 24-49, 51, 52, and 54 are left unchanged.

Claims 15-17, 20-23, 50, 53, and 55-57 remain canceled.

Entry of the AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

3. Conclusion

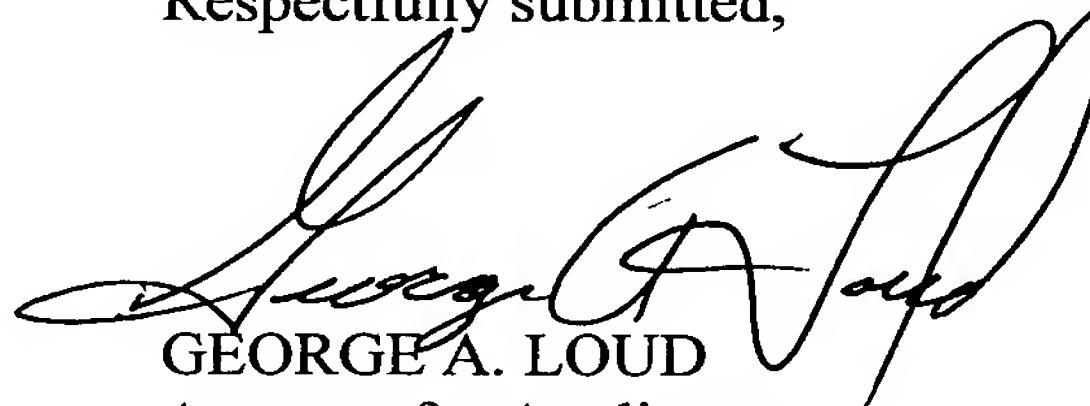
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for examination and allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that every pending claim in the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicants' attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176  
Phone: (703) 683-0500  
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

Date: December 1, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



GEORGE A. LOUD  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 25,814